

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the last full paragraph on Page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

The switching devices 23, 24, 25, 26 are all of similar construction and are also referred to as “drop-and-continue circuit”, abbreviated to D&C. Each of the switching devices 23, 24, 25, 26 has three pairs of connections each comprising one incoming and one outgoing connection. Additionally each of the switching devices ~~23~~24, 24, 25, 26 on the one hand contains a switch 27, with which one of the outgoing connections can be switched back and forth between two of the incoming connections, and on the other hand contains a branching or so-called broadcast with which one incoming connection is divided between two outgoing connections. The switches 27 are illustrated in Figure 2.